

The Random Jottings of Donald Jay from Nelson in Pendle.

Sacred Hearts Church, Colne, Lancashire,

Uncle Fred and Aunt Nelly had always been an adventurous couple, but their current situation brought them face to face with a new challenge. As they settled into their rented cottage near Sacred Hearts Church in Colne, Lancashire, they couldn't help but notice the mischievous hobgoblins lurking about.

The hobgoblins were notorious troublemakers in the area, causing mischief and playing pranks on unsuspecting villagers. Their presence made life difficult for Uncle Fred and Aunt Nelly, who were already grappling with the uncertainty of war. However, the couple was not one to back down easily.

Uncle Fred, with his disability preventing him from joining the army, felt a strong sense of duty to serve his country in any way he could. When he learned that the farmer who owned the cottage, Mr. Jenkins, was in dire need of help on his farm due to the absence of his sons and workers, Uncle Fred saw an opportunity.

He approached Mr. Jenkins with a proposition. "Sir, I may not be fit for the army, but I can certainly lend a hand on your farm. Let me work the land and tend to your animals while your sons are away. In return, would you kindly ask the hobgoblins to leave us in peace?"

Mr. Jenkins was skeptical at first, as he had heard stories about the hobgoblins' mischievous nature and was unsure if Uncle Fred would be able to handle them. However, seeing the determination in Uncle Fred's eyes, he agreed to the deal.

So it began. Uncle Fred rose early every morning and worked tirelessly on the farm. He plowed the fields, planted crops, and tended to the livestock. Aunt Nelly, with her green thumb, helped in the garden and made sure the cottage was a warm and welcoming home.

As the days passed, the hobgoblins noticed Uncle Fred's hard work and dedication. They were intrigued by his commitment and decided to test him. They would hide tools, scatter seeds, and play pranks on the farm. But Uncle Fred remained undeterred.

Instead of getting angry, he smiled and laughed along with the hobgoblins. He even left them little treats as a peace offering. Gradually, the mischievous creatures began to see Uncle Fred as a friend rather than a foe. They started to help him on the farm, making tasks easier and faster. Word spread throughout the village about Uncle Fred's unique relationship with the hobgoblins. People were amazed at how he had managed to turn them into allies. The church community, which had been dealing with their own troubles during the war, saw this as a sign of hope.

The Reverend of Sacred Hearts Church, Reverend Anderson, approached Uncle Fred and asked him to share his story with the congregation. "Your tale of unity and friendship with the hobgoblins is truly remarkable," he said. "It is a testament to the power of understanding and compassion, even in the most difficult times."

Uncle Fred agreed, and on a Sunday morning, he stood before the churchgoers and shared his journey. His words resonated deeply with the community, reminding them that unity and kindness could overcome any challenge.

As the war raged on, Uncle Fred's farm became a symbol of resilience and harmony. People from near and far came to witness the incredible sight of hobgoblins willingly working alongside humans.

When the war finally came to an end, the village celebrated with a grand feast at Sacred Hearts Church. The hobgoblins, once notorious for their mischief, were now welcomed as honored guests. They danced and laughed with the villagers, their mischievous nature now a source of amusement rather than trouble.

Uncle Fred and Aunt Nelly continued to work on the farm, but their days were filled with joy and gratitude. They had not only served their country through their labor but had also brought together a community and forged unlikely friendships.

The legacy of Uncle Fred and Aunt Nelly's time in Colne lived on for generations. The story of the hobgoblins and their transformative power became a cherished tale, reminding everyone of the strength that lies in unity and understanding, even in the face of adversity. And at Sacred Hearts Church, the bells rang out in celebration, echoing the resounding message of hope and love.

By Donald Jay.